

NEWS RELEASE

Plexus Publishing, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLEXUS TO SPONSOR “WITMER STONE WEEKEND”—A UNIQUE EVENT FOR NATURE LOVERS, PLANT ENTHUSIASTS, AND SOUTH JERSEY HISTORY BUFFS

On September 30, the Medford, New Jersey-based publisher joins with environmental groups to celebrate naturalist Witmer Stone and the 100th anniversary of his influential book, *The Plants of Southern New Jersey*

August 26, 2011, Medford, NJ— Plexus Publishing, Inc. is pleased to announce its sponsorship of Witmer Stone Weekend, a unique three-day event in Medford, New Jersey, marking the 100th anniversary of the publication of *The Plants of Southern New Jersey* by renowned natural scientist Witmer Stone. Stone’s seminal botanical work was published by the New Jersey State Museum in 1911 and is still valued by naturalists today—including Plexus’s own Howard P. Boyd who referenced it in *A Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* and *Wildflowers of the Pine Barrens of New Jersey*.

Several environmental organizations have come together with the support of Plexus to plan Witmer Stone Weekend. The celebration will begin with a dinner and presentation on Friday evening, September 30, and continue through Saturday, October 1. Five different Stone-inspired field trips will be offered on Sunday, October 2. The event will move between Medford Leas and adjacent Camp Dark Waters, both in Medford. Registration is now open on the web at www.witmerstoneweekend.com.

The weekend gathering will also include a visit to Catoxen Cabin, built in 1889 by Stone’s friends and fellow naturalists as the base camp for their nature studies. The 112-year-old cabin is still in use today at Camp Dark Waters. Members of the Medford Questers will furnish the cabin for the weekend with antiques similar to the chairs and tables used by its original residents.

The event will kick off on Friday evening at Medford Leas with a dinner and keynote talk about Stone and the great Philadelphia naturalists who preceded him. Saturday will feature presentations about Stone and his work, linking today’s plants, birds, insects, and habitats to those he researched and reported on. The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) Bookstore will offer a number of Plexus’s best-loved nature titles for sale during the Saturday festivities with proceeds supporting Pinelands preservation.

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At mid-afternoon on Saturday, attendees will adjourn to Camp Dark Waters to visit Catoxen Cabin and engage in hikes, bird walks, plant forays, and canoeing—the kind of natural science pursuits Stone and his colleagues would have enjoyed there at the turn of the 20th century. The day will conclude with a rustic dinner and acoustic music around the campfire. Overnight “Bunk and Breakfast” accommodations are available at the camp for \$20 per person per night on a first-come first-served basis.

A variety of exciting and informative field trips “in the footsteps of Witmer Stone” will be offered on Sunday, including botanical, avian, and ecology car caravans and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Sunday’s presenters and field trip leaders—all respected naturalists, scientists, and historians well versed in Stone’s writings—include Bert Filemyr, Rick Radis, William Cahill, Joel T. Fry, Wayne Ferren, Russell Juelg, Ted Gordon, and Ned Gilmore.

Witmer Stone (1866-1939) was a giant among naturalists. A native Philadelphian, he was both the last of the Victorian gentlemen scientists and the first of the professional natural scientists. After earning his Sc.D. at Penn, he spent his entire career at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, starting as Jessup Fund Student and ending as emeritus director and vice president 51 years later.

Stone’s many accomplishments flowed from his profound and passionate interest in nature. He wrote three books that are still referenced by naturalists today, *Bird Studies at Old Cape May*, *The Mammals of New Jersey*, and *The Plants of Southern New Jersey*, along with numerous scientific papers and monographs. He was a founder of both the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and the Philadelphia Botanical Club, still thriving organizations, and was a member and officer of many other national and international scientific organizations.

The cost of registration for the complete Witmer Stone Weekend is \$75, with Saturday-only registrations available for \$45. The full weekend schedule and downloadable registration forms are online at www.witmerstoneweekend.com. For more information about the event call Janet Jackson-Gould at 609-654-6485 or email jsjackson Gould@comcast.net. For more information about Plexus Publishing, Inc., visit www.plexuspublishing.com or call 609-654-6500.

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